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U.S. Narcotics Bureau Is Linked to

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 21—Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, who supervised the Central Intelligence Agency's tests of drugs on unsuspecting human subjects, told a Senate subcommittee today that the old Federal Bureau of Narcotics had cooperated in the tests.

Dr. Gottlieb's testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research was the first to link the narcotics bureau, since supplanted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, directly to drug testing. He said the bureau had wanted to find out whether secretly administered drugs could make potential narcotics informers talk.

Former officials of the Bureau of Narcotics have denied knowing anything about drug tests on unwitting subjects, even though their agency shared undercover apartments with the C.I.A. and even though one of their officials, the late George H. White, using the code name Morgan Hall, ran the tests for the agency.

Drug Agency Chief Shocked

"I was shocked and appalled such activity did take place," Peter Bensinger, the drug agency administrator, told the subcommittee later. "I can see no circumstances in which such activity could be justified."

Dr. Gottlieb, who said that a health problem made it difficult for him to testify in the crowded hearing room, testified in closed session, and his voice was broadcast to reporters waiting outside.

Testifying under a grant of immunity from prosecution, Dr. Gottlieb said that from 20 to 50 persons had been made the unwitting subjects of C.I.A. drug experiments from 1952 to 1965 in houses and apartments leased by the agency in San Francisco and New York City.

Questioning the numbers, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, the subcommittee chairman, observed that more than 200 payments had been made in San Francisco alone by Morgan Hall, or Mr. White. He said that 32 of these checks bore the notation "Stormy," a code name for LSD developed by Mr. White, but that other checks seemed to have gone to the same people.

Speculation on Use

"The disbursements could have been for the administration of drugs," Dr. Gottlieb conceded, "but I'm not persuaded that they were."

Risk Called Reasonable

Dr. Gottlieb told the subcommittee that there was "no advance knowledge or protection" of the people who were unknowingly given drugs, which he identified as LSD and Meretran.

"Harsh as it may seem in retrospect," he said, "it was felt that in an issue where national survival might be concerned, it was a reasonable one to take."

Dr. Gottlieb testified that the agency had been concerned about "well-docu-

couriers so that documents could be stolen from them.

Even after the death in 1953 of Frank Olson, an Army scientist who developed a psychotic reaction and committed suicide after unwittingly drinking a glass of liqueur containing LSD, Dr. Gottlieb said that no additional safeguards were provided. He explained that physicians advising the agency had been unable to find any "absolute" connection between the LSD and the suicide.

Senate investigators had hoped that Dr. Gottlieb could describe the manner in which the drug tests were conducted, but he told the subcommittee today that, although he had visited the apartments maintained by the intelligence agency, he had never witnessed a test.

Acted on Own Initiative

Dr. Gottlieb destroyed the documents describing these experiments in 1972. He testified today that his action had had "nothing to do with covering up illegal activities," but was done, in part, because "this material was sensitive and capable of being misunderstood."

Dr. Gottlieb said he had destroyed the files on his own initiative and not, as was previously reported, under orders from Richard Helms, then Director of Central Intelligence. Mr. Helms testified under oath in 1975 that he never ordered the destruction of the drug records.

A document that came to light in today's hearing indicated that Dr. Gottlieb's deputy had attempted to stop the destruction of these files. Asked about this, Dr. Gottlieb replied, "I can't recall."

Dr. Gottlieb said that at the time he considered his work to be "extremely unpleasant, extremely difficult, extremely sensitive, but above all, to be extremely urgent and important."

He said he believed that hostile countries were still attempting to administer drugs covertly, and that "the final chapter hasn't been written."

To illustrate this point, he said he had been asked in "approximately 1971" to determine whether members of the staff of President Nixon, including his physi-

cy of their successful and effective use, either against us or by us, was very low."

He said the drug experiments continued, however, even after it was clear that they were not very valuable, and he said he would "freely admit to bureaucratic inertia" in failing to discontinue them.

Dr. Gottlieb said the leadership of the intelligence agency reviewed the drug testing programs "at least once a year," and added: "I specifically remember briefing the directors of the Central Intelligence Agency." These, he said, were Allen W. Dulles, John A. McCone and Mr. Helms.

Adm. Stansfield Turner, the current Director of Central Intelligence, assured members of the Senate subcommittee today that no unwitting drug testing has been sponsored by the agency since 1964. "This is history," he said.

"I don't know how many times we've been told these programs have been turned off only to have them spring up again," Senator Kennedy told him.

The Senator and other subcommittee members questioned Admiral Turner about his Aug. 3 testimony in which he said the agency did not test drugs on human subjects in Project Oifen, which was coordinated with the Department of the Army before it was terminated in 1973.

Committee members referred to a Sept. 20 memorandum for the Secretary of Defense which described C.I.A. sponsorship of tests of an incapacitating drug that the agency thought could be applied through the skin with adhesive tape. Although most of the tests were performed on animals, the memorandum noted, two military volunteers were tested in June 1973 at Edgewood Arsenal research laboratories.

Adm. Turner told the subcommittee he believed that test had been sponsored by the Department of the Army. Deanne C. Iemer, general counsel for the Department of Defense, told members of the subcommittee she believed the test had been sponsored by the intelligence agency.